

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /078 W

----- 085589

R 221511Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 981

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: NEW SHOOTING INCIDENT AT KAZUNGULA FERRY

REF: LUSAKA 2095, 1995

1. TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTED ON NOV 21 SHOOTING INCIDENT PREVIOUS DAY BETWEEN ZAMBIAN AND RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES AT KAZUNGULA. ACCORDING TO TIMES EYE-WITNESS CORRESPONDENT, FIRING COMMENCED IN EARLY AFTERNOON AND CONTINUED FOR SIX HOURS. RIFLE, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, AND EVEN MORTAR FIRE REPORTEDLY USED BY BOTH SIDES. NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED BUT FERRY TRAFFIC WAS HALTED WHEN GUNFIRE SNAPPED ONE OF THE PONTOON CONTROL CABLES WHILE FERRY WAS IN MID-STREAM.

2. TODAY'S TIMES REPORTS THAT RHODESIANS INITIATED THE FIRING BUT IT ALSO CARRIES REPORT OF RHODESIAN
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GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ALLEGING IT WAS ZAMBIANS WHO HAD FIRED FIRST AND RHODESIANS HAD RESPONDED ONLY

WHEN ZAMBIANS HAD FIRED MORTAR SHELL ACROSS ZAMBEZI.
SENIOR ZAMBIAN POLICE, CUSTOMS, AND IMMIGRATION
OFFICIALS ARE REPORTEDLY ON SCENE TO INVESTIGATE.

3. MEANWHILE, KAZUNGULA FERRY SAID TO BE IDLE AS
CREW MEMBERS HAVE DISPERSED TO THEIR VILLAGES AND
ARE REFUSING TO RETURN TO WORK UNTIL THEY CAN
BE ASSURED THEIR LIVES NOT ENDANGERED. INCIDENT HAS
INTERRUPTED ROAD TRAFFIC BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND
BOTSWANA. AMONG THOSE CAUGHT ON BOTSWANA SIDE
ARE 19 TOURISTS AND THREE BUSES BELONGING ZAMBIAN
NATIONAL TOURIST BUREAU WHICH, APPARENTLY LULLED BY
RECENT ABSENCE OF INCIDENTS AT KAZUNGULA, HAS BEEN
RUNNING BUS TOURS ACROSS ZAMBEZI TO BOTSWANA'S CHOBE
GAME PRESERVE. TOURISTS WILL NOW PRESUMABLY BE
FLOWN BACK TO ZAMBIA.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST REPORTED INCIDENT OF
VIOLENCE AT KAZUNGULA QUADRIPOINT IN SIX WEEKS.
NEVERTHELESS, IT UNDERLINES CONTINUED VOLATILITY
OF SITUATION IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA. WHILE TIMES
QUOTES ONE UNNAMED ZAMBIAN OFFICIAL AS EXPRESSING
WISH BORDER THERE COULD BE CLOSED UNTIL RHODESIAN
SITUATION SETTLED, WE DOUBT THAT EITHER
GRZ OR BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT PREPARED TAKE
SUCH STEP. THIS ALSO THE VIEW OF BOTSWANAN
HIGH COMMISSION HERE. HOWEVER, SHOOTING INCI-
DENTS HAVE APPARENTLY HAD EFFECT OF INTIMIDATING
FOR PRESENT FERRY CREWMEN AND OTHERS LIVING IN
KAZUNGULA AREA. FURTHER INCIDENTS, ESPECIALLY
IF CASUALTIES WERE TO RESULT, COULD SEE FERRY
CLOSED DOWN FOR PROLONGED PERIOD.

5. FOR GABORONE: BOTSWANAN HICOM OFFICER HERE
THOUGHT THAT REPORT ON THIS INCIDENT MAY HAVE
BEEN SUBMITTED GOB BY DISTRICT OFFICER IN KASANE.
IF SO, IT MAY PROVIDE USEFUL ADDITIONAL INFO
BOTH ON ORIGIN OF LATEST KAZUNGULA INCIDENT
AND ON IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS OF
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THE FERRY.
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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